

with the increased danger of considerable pressure. It has no place in modern surgery. We are surprised to find it mentioned with approval. It is with some regret that we find it necessary to criticise more or less severely many of the surgical tenets laid down in this book. They were, no doubt, orthodox twenty years ago, but will not receive approval at the present day.

ALGERNON T. BRISTOW.

MECHANICS OF SURGERY. By CHARLES TRUAX. Chicago, 1899.  
Pp. 1224. Charles Truax, publisher.

This volume, compiled and published by Mr. Charles Truax, an instrument maker of Chicago, enters a field seldom touched on by surgical writers. In his "Mechanics of Surgery," Mr. Truax has endeavored to supply an armamentarium which shall not merely picture and designate the various surgical implements, appliances, and furniture, but shall give a word of description to each. Expanding this idea, the instruments are grouped appropriate to the region for which they are adapted, lists of the tools required for each sort of operation are furnished, and directions appended for the preparation of surgical supplies, for the sterilization of dressings, and for the measurement and application of orthopædic appliances.

As the author points out, no mere catalogue of instruments is complete enough to furnish more than the name, price, and appearance of the maker's stock in trade, and is often faulty in these particulars; writers seldom speak of the mechanical part of the operations they describe other than in the most casual way; while uniformity of nomenclature is sadly lacking. All these things he tries to set right.

The rapid strides in operative surgery have caused more than corresponding increase in surgical tools: new masters of the art are constantly devising new forms, or remodelling old ones to suit their necessities or their whims; new methods have made obsolete many instruments once thought indispensable; from all of which it follows that a work intended to guide the beginner in his choice of tools, or to furnish the skilled surgeon an adequate source whence he may

draw ideas, must not be restricted by personal choice or the limits of territorial usage, but must be an encyclopædia sufficiently broad to contain all things for all men.

Mr. Truax, in narrowing the limits of his book to include only such instruments and methods as are in common use and recommended by selected authorities, has somewhat lessened its value, especially as many surgical antiquities are retained at the expense of modern tools of great value. We think, too, the descriptive text might have been in many places advantageously expanded.

While it will prove an aid in the identification of instruments, it must be supplemented by the illustrated lists of other standard makers. It is a step in the right direction.

HENRY GOODWIN WEBSTER.

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND ITS CONSTITUENT NEURONES. By Llewellys F. BARKER, M.B., Associate Professor of Anatomy in the Johns Hopkins University. 8vo, pp. 1122, 1899. New York: D. Appleton & Co.

This book represents the most advanced work that has ever been done in the anatomy and physiology of the nervous system. It is not as concise as some of the other allied works, and is possibly too deep to be used as a text-book by medical students, but it will be of much practical value to the more advanced workers who expect to devote special attention to the nervous architecture of the body.

Barker has taken advantage of the advance in the printer's art which has made it possible for him to reproduce many photomicrographs and lithographs of actual specimens, bringing out with exactness the details of nervous structures. This is of obvious value to the reader. The text is profusely illustrated, and every reference to morphological relations is carefully depicted by very superior drawings. The author makes a great point in this. The series of drawings of transverse and horizontal sections through the medulla, pons, and midbrain prepared by Mr. L. Schmidt are particularly noticeable for their excellence. Many of the illustrations have been borrowed from foreign sources. The printing at the side of many of the cuts of the